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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
THE DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH

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TO: The Secretary
FROM: S/S
SUBJECT: DLR - Thomas L. Hughes

JAN 11 1963

SUBJECT WORD: YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST PARTY BLOC CONGRESS

Historical Significance. Belgrade's announcement today that a high-level Yugoslav Party delegation would attend the forthcoming SED Congress at the latter's invitation significantly enhances Yugoslavia's status and influence in the affairs of the Communist bloc. Yugoslavia has never attended the party congress of a bloc country -- theoretically the supreme forum of each national Party, but often a de facto community gathering where the current general line is canonized. The Yugoslavs took part in the international communist conference held in Moscow in 1957, and in the Italian Party congress last month. Tito is thus getting the best of both worlds: he still insists on his non-bloc status while now being officially granted a voice in the bloc's supreme councils.

Bloc Implications. The Soviet bloc's new rapprochement with Yugoslavia was triggered by Tito's "vacation" in the USSR. Most emphatically, Khrushchev in his December 12 speech pilloried a war party in the bloc (Chinese and Albanians), and graphically underscored Soviet affinity with Yugoslavia on the war-and-peace issue when he asserted that during the Cuban crisis the Yugoslav regime had been right and the bloc "dogmatists" wrong. The Soviet bloc/Yugoslav rapprochement heightens the likelihood that the Berlin Congress will see more formal Soviet-inspired action against the Albanian regime and at the least further severe condemnation of the Chinese Communists.

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